(b) whether it is a fact that Government announced concessions on travels for the people attending the celebrations; and

(c) if so, the rational for giving such concessions?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BASANAGOUDA R. PATIL): (a) to (c) This concession was granted, as an exception, to persons belonging to economically weaker sections.

Subsidies on agriculture

1965. SHRI SANJAY NIRUPAM: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have cut subsidies on agriculture;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV): (a) According to the figures on subsidies to agriculture compiled by the Central Statistical Organization, New Delhi, for the period 1993-94 to 2000-01, agriculture subsidies did not show any decline.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Palace on Wheels in different States

1966. SHRI RUMANDLA RAAMACHANDRAYYA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) what is the present status of the 'Palace on Wheels' project in different States;

(b) whether Railways have conducted a feasibility study in States; and

(c) if so, the gist of the feasibility report, time frame, if any set up for introduction of Palace on Wheels in States?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BASANAGOUDA R. PATIL): (a) to (c) Luxury tourist train—the "Palace

on Wheels" is being run in Rajasthan in collaboration with the Rajasthan Tourism Development Corporation (RTDC) and "Royal Orient Express" in Gujarat in collaboration with M/s Tourism Corporation of Gujarat Ltd. (TCGL.) On requests from State Governments, the Railways run luxury tourist trains for promotion of rail tourism in collaboration with State Tourism Departments. MoUs have already been signed for running of such trains in Maharashtra and Karnataka and no time frame has been fixed in this regard.

Restructuring of Railway Boards

1967. DR. ABRAR AHMED: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are actively considering the working of Railway Recruitment Boards with a view to restructuring the Boards; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BASANAGOUDA R. PATIL): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Training centre for locomotive drivers

†1968. SHRI P.K. MAHESHWARI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) by when the financial assistance for setting up of the training centres for the locomotive drivers will be provided to the M.P. Government;

(b) the details thereof; and

(c) by when the training centre is likely to be started in near future?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BASANAGOUDA R. PATIL): (a) There is no such proposal. Training centres on Railways are meant for training Railway employees and are funded out of the Railway's Budget. No financial assistance is allocated to State Governments.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.